

Message Text

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71

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECSTATE WASHDC 9417

USMISSION GENEVA

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AFDROUGHT

E O 11652 N A

SUBJC NOMADS: PREVIOUS RESIDENTS IN MALI NOW

RESIDING IN NIGER

REF: NIAMEY 2350

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOM WOULD BE VERY WILLING TO DISCUSS SITUATION OF FORMER MALI NOMADS NOW LIVING IN NIGER. WHILE HCR MAY BE PROPER INTERMEDIARY, WE SUGGEST THAT CILSS POSSIBLE ROLE THIS AREA NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

2. CAN THINK OF NO BETTER BACKGROUND STATEMENT ON MALI-NIGER NOMAD SITUATION THAN THAT PROVIDED IN RECENT REPORT BY DR PASCAL IMPERATOR (U.S. EXPERT ON MALI):

QTE:

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PRIOR TO ONSET OF PRESENT DROUGHT, THERE HAD BEEN A SIZEABLE EXODUS FROM GAO REGION INTO NEIGHBORING REGIONS OF MALI AND INTO ADJACENT STATES OF ALGERIA, NIGER AND UPPER VOLTA. CHRONIC CROP FAILURES PROMPTED SIZEABLE NUMBERS OF SEDENTARY FAMILIES TO LEAVE. IN 1966 THE OFFICIAL POPULATION OF BOUREM WAS STATED TO BE 95,000. HOWEVER, DURING PLANNING PHASE OF SMALLPOX-MEASLES PROGRAM IN THAT CERCLE, IN 1968, LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS INFORMED ME THAT POPULATION WAS ACTUALLY MORE ON ORDER OF 65,000. THEY STATED THAT A THIRD OF CERCLE'S SEDENTARY POPULATION HAD MIGRATED SOUTH INTO NIGER AND UPPER VOLTA AND TO A LESSER EXTENT INTO THE CERCLES OF GAO AND ANSONGO BECAUSE OF CONSISTENTLY POOR HARVESTS. THE ABANDONED VILLAGES PRESENT ALONG THE NIGER IN THE CERCLE OF BOUREM ARE A RESULT OF THIS EXODUS AND NOT THE DROUGHT. THERE HAS BEEN A CONSTANT DRIFT OF YOUNG ADULT MALES INTO JOB MARKETS OF THE COASTAL COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY GHANA, THE IVORY COAST AND NIGERIA. IT IS, OF COURSE, DIFFICULT TO SAY WHAT PROPORTION OF REGION'S SEDENTARY POPULATION LEFT DURING DECADE PRIOR TO PRESENT DROUGHT, BUT GENERAL IMPRESSION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS IS THAT IT WAS SIZEABLE.

QTE: THE NOMADIC TUAREG POPULATION ALSO LEFT GAO REGION, FOR SEVERAL REASONS. IN EARLY 1960S, THE IFORA TUAREG IN CERCLE OF KIDAL BEGAN AN ARMED REVOLT AGAINST NEWLY INDEPENDENT MALIAN GOVERNMENT. THIS REVOLT WAS FINALLY PUT DOWN BY MALIAN ARMY IN 1963. DURING IT AND AFTERWARDS, LARGE NUMBERS OF TUAREG, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE IFORA AND AULLIMINDEN LEFT MALI FOR NIGER AND ALGIERS AND DID NOT RETURN. MANY TUAREG AS WELL AS SEDENTARY PEOPLES OF REGION VIEWED REGIME OF MODIBO KEITA (1960-1968) AS EXCESSIVELY OPPROESSIVE AND BECAUSE OF IT LEFT THE COUNTRY. THUS, BECAUSE OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS, A SIZEABLE EXODUS FROM REGION BEGAN LONG BEFORE THE CURRENT DROUGHT. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT POINT TO KEEP IN MIND BECAUSE THE LARGE NUMBERS OF MALIANS NOW IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN ADJACENT AREAS OF NIGER AND UPPER VOLTA ARE NOT COMPOSED ONLY OF DROUGHT REFUGEES WHO RECENTLY LEFT MALI. MANY OF THESE REFUGEES HAD BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIVING OUTSIDE OF MALI FOR MANY YEARS. END QTE.
MCGUIRE

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Message Attributes

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